



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/822,184	04/08/2004	William Ray Higgins	2290.006	1766

21917 7590 03/30/2007  
MCHALE & SLAVIN, P.A.  
2855 PGA BLVD  
PALM BEACH GARDENS, FL 33410

EXAMINER
----------

GILBERT, WILLIAM V

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3635

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/30/2007	PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/822,184

Applicant(s)

HIGGINS, WILLIAM RAY

Examiner

William V. Gilbert

Art Unit

3635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>01/03/05</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

Art Unit: 3635

**DETAILED ACTION**

This is a First Action on the Merits. Claims 1-7 are pending below.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this

Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Art Unit: 3635

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen (U.S. Patent No. 4,519,657) in view of Greene (U.S. Patent No. 6,284,336).

Claim 1: Jensen discloses a deformation resistant power pedestal assembly comprising a hollow rectangular post (Fig 16) having load bearing walls (65) defining exterior and interior surfaces and first and second open ends (proximate 81 and 62 respectively), a reinforcing cap (79) constructed for insertion within the first open end (proximate 81), the cap engages the interior surface of the post to prevent movement of the exterior surface, and retention means (proximate 81) arranged for retaining the cap within the post. Jensen discloses that the body (65) may be made of polyester or fiberglass resin (Col. 3, lines 57-63), but it does not disclose the body is polyester cloth with fiberglass resin. Greene discloses a post made of polyester cloth with fiberglass resin (Col. 3, lines 28-35). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to make the post in Jensen in the manner of Greene because while Jensen discloses the body is made of polyester or fiberglass resin, a polyester cloth would aid in ease of production of manufacturing the pedestal by aiding the maintaining of its shape and the fiberglass resin would be an obvious bonding agent for the

Art Unit: 3635

cloth. Further Jensen does not disclose the load bearing limitation. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to design the post in Jensen to hold 18 times the weight of the assembly in order to function properly without failure and the prior art of record is capable of being designed to meet these limitations.

Claim 2: the cap (Jensen 79) provides closure to the first open end.

Claim 4: Jensen has a mounting surface extender (Fig. 15: 56) having a first and second surface, the first surface is removable (see 56) and the second surface (the other side) is arranged to provide increased surface area.

Claim 5: Jensen in view of Greene has an additive to provide resistance of ultraviolet radiation (Greene, Col 3, lines 30-34)

Claim 7: Jensen discloses a process by providing a pedestal assembly a hollow rectangular post (Fig 16) having load bearing walls (65) defining exterior and interior surfaces and first and second open ends (proximate 81 and 62 respectively), a reinforcing cap (79) constructed for insertion within the first open end (proximate 81), the cap engages the interior surface of the post to prevent movement of the exterior surface, and

Art Unit: 3635

retention means (proximate 81) arranged for retaining the cap within the post, and attaching at least one appurtenant structure (Fig. 15: 56) via through-bolts. Jensen discloses that the body (65) may be made of polyester or fiberglass resin (Col. 3, lines 57-63), but it does not disclose the body is polyester cloth with fiberglass resin. Greene discloses a post made of polyester cloth with fiberglass resin (Col. 3, lines 28-35). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to make the post in Jensen in the manner of Greene because while Jensen discloses the body is made of polyester or fiberglass resin, a polyester cloth would aid in ease of production of manufacturing the pedestal by aiding the maintaining of its shape and the fiberglass resin would be an obvious bonding agent for the cloth. Further Jensen does not disclose the load bearing limitation. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art as a matter of design choice to design the post in Jensen to hold 18 times the weight of the assembly in order to function properly without failure, and the prior art of record is capable of being designed to meet these limitations. Lastly, Jensen does not disclose placing the pedestal in the ground. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

Art Unit: 3635

having ordinary skill in the art to place the post in Jensen in the ground at such a depth, absent a prepared foundation, to stabilize the pedestal.

**Claim 3** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen and Greene and further in view of Zemon (U.S. Patent No. 5,603,389).

Claim 3: Jensen in view of Greene disclose the claimed invention except for a plurality of fasteners to fasten the cap. Zemon discloses a post with a cap (Fig. 1) and fasteners (46) to hold the cap in place. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use fasteners with the pedestal and cap in Jensen in view of Greene in order to more permanently affix the cap to the pedestal.

**Claim 6** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jensen in view of Greene further in view of Fawly (U.S. Publication 2002/0095905).

Claim 6: Jensen in view of Greene disclose the claimed invention except that the polyester resin is not an isophthalic polyester resin. Fawly discloses a shaft made of isophthalic polyester resin (Paragraph 0034, lines 7-10). It would have

Art Unit: 3635

been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use isophthalic polyester resin with the invention in Greene because the polyester used in Greene is inclusive of the isophthalic polyester resin in Fawly. Further, it is well known in the art that isophthalic polyester resin typically has higher tensile and compressive strengths versus non-isophthalic polyester resins.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William V. Gilbert whose telephone number is 571.272.9055. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00 to 17:00 EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Carl Friedman can be reached on 571.272.6842. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



Art Unit: 3635

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

WVG

25 March 07

Paul Koth  
BRIAN KOTHE  
EX-103635  
3/29/07